



Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania

Sept 2021

www.oswp.org

Upcoming Events

September 19 2021

Q & A

with senior members

to answer all of your orchid related questions

Looking Ahead

Meetings will continue on Zoom for now

Oct.

Nov.

TBA

" UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES "

OSWP meetings are held at the Phipps Garden Center on Shady Avenue and are open to members, their guests and the general public. Program Calendar is also available at www.oswp.org

HOWEVER, we are on Zoom for meetings , and those interested non members could use the 'contact us ' section of the website to get a Zoom invitation

OSWP Officers

Co-President: Sheila Nathanson and Mike Lyse

Co-First Vice President: Kathleen Arria and David Springer

Second Vice President: Timothy Choltco

Directors: Brooke Decker, Peg Kalupanov, Jinghua Ou, Aaron Vitron, Tamara Wurst.

Secretary: open

Treasurer: Janet Greenberg

What's Blooming Now

Bulbophyllum frostii - Dutch Shoe Orchid

IDENTIFY BULBOPHYLLUM FROSTII

Bulbophyllum frostii comes from Vietnam. They grow as epiphytes at elevations around 4750 to 5000 feet above sea level. It is a mini-miniature sized, cool growing epiphyte and blooms in the spring on a basal, horizontal, The flowers are one inch in diameter and are red with red lip and resemble a Dutch wooden shoe.

BULBOPHYLLUM FROSTII CARE AND CULTURE

Cultural information should only be used as a guide, and should be to be adapted to suit you. Your physical location; where you grow your plants, how much time you have to devote to their care, and many other factors, will need to be taken into account. Only then can you decide on the cultural methods that best suit you and your plants.

Light: Bulbophyllum frostii needs a light level of 1400 foot candles. And can not take direct sunlight.

Temperature: It is an intermediate-hot / warm greenhouse species. They grow well 70 to 77 o F during the day and 65 to 68 ° F at night; while in winter temperatures can be a couple of degrees cooler.

Humidity: If mounted humidity must be around 75%. If potted, it can be around 50-60%.

Substrate, growing media and repotting: Bulbophyllum frostii can be mounted but better to grow this species in pot in medium-small bark.



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Watering: Never let this plant completely dry out. However, in the winter months, the plant has slowed down the growth, it is better to reduce even a little wetting, BUT, never allow the plant to remain completely dry for more than a day. Fertilizer:

Fertilize with caution, approximately once a month, with 1/6 of the dose indicated on the fertilizer bottle. with the values of balanced fertilizer (20-20-20, 5-5-5, etc.).

Rest period: There is no rest period but growth slows during winter

Co-President's Letter Sept 2021

If you get to spend time outdoors, you've probably noticed subtle signs of a waning summer; fall blooming anemones full of bud, annuals looking tired, days much shorter than in June. If you grow your orchids outdoors in summer to take advantage of our warm steamy months, this is a good time to start thinking about their return to captivity. There is quite a bit of variability in species in regards to their cold tolerance, and knowing the limits of what you have can help plan what needs to be taken in as soon as the thermometer dips into the 60s, and what will be delighted with temps in the high 40s. One of my secret weapons for orchid growing is the website of the St. Augustine Orchid Society. Their website is free to non-members, and they have spent an enormous amount of time compiling a comprehensive collection of culture tips and tutorials. If you open their website, go to Culture: Seasonal Tips. The article under Winter: Cold Tolerance of Orchids will be enormously helpful when prioritizing the trip back to the house.

Due to our change in format for the September 19 meeting, the Zoom will open around 1pm, with the Q & A to begin at 2. We will have time for greetings, announcements and Show and Tell from 1 to 2. If you have a problem plant and would like to submit a photo to help illustrate the issue, send it to Jim Yamber, quail1@verizon.net with a subject line 'question'.

See you at the Zoom meeting !

We are beginning to plan for an orchid show scheduled for March 19 and 20, 2022, pandemic permitting. Our venue will once again be the Crowne Plaza Hotel, where we were very comfortable in 2020, before the world shut down. If you have recently joined us but haven't jumped in with both feet, this is your chance to shine! The show is absolutely a group effort, and many hands make quick work ! Never more true than at show time. We have lots of fun behind the scenes at the show, and this is where friendships take root. There are opportunities for everyone, no matter your growing expertise, to participate and contribute to our success. The volunteer sign up site will open in February, 2022.

We hope to see you at the Zoom meeting in September.
Be well and continue to think orchids !

Sheila Nathanson and Mike Lysy , co-presidents OSWP

Orchid Gems

Meeting the Challenge with Patience: Charlotte Momich

By: Pam Horter-Moore

What can be better than having a career that you love, except retiring from it? Charlotte Momich has a lot to look forward to, having recently retired from Oracle Database Cloud Services as Director of Business Development and Customer Programs. After being the interface between developers, engineers, customers, and the public, she can now turn her attention to more personal pursuits.

“I would like to expand my volunteer activities. I am currently active with the Family House of Shadyside, which provides a home environment for patients and their families who travel to Pittsburgh for treatment of serious or life-threatening illnesses.

“My Mother died of Alzheimer’s Disease, and we received so much wonderful support and advice from the Alzheimer’s Association. I’m looking forward to getting involved and helping others in the same way. And, of course, I hope to volunteer for OSWP’s 2022 Spring Orchid Show.” She likes to encourage those who may be interested in growing orchids, but are intimidated, by sharing stories of her own orchid experiences.

Like many collectors, Charlotte cut her orchid teeth on plants from Giant Eagle and Home Depot.

“They made it affordable to buy my first orchids, and after that, I was hooked. I now feel more confident about growing orchids.”

Charlotte had always loved orchids, so, when visiting her sister in the hospital about 15 years ago, she brought one for her sister to enjoy. “While I was there, her doctor walked in -- orchid enthusiast and long-time OSWP member Doctor Hossein Noorbakhsh. He asked me about the orchid, and proceeded to tell me about his collection. I was so intrigued; I had no idea there were so many different species. He also told me about the OSWP Spring Show, and suggested I join the Orchid Society of Western PA. I attended the next Spring Show, and was amazed at all of the different orchids, and purchased my first Paphiopedilum and have slowly grown my collection to about 40 orchids.”

“It took a few years for me to officially join the OSWP, but I have learned so much. I enjoy the fact that so many people from so many walks of life join the society out of a common interest and never talk work. The people in the OSWP are my encyclopedia of knowledge when it comes to orchids. I experiment, using the information I’ve gained, and I am thrilled with the outcome when my orchids bloom.”

Since Charlotte lives in a townhouse, she doesn’t have a lot of room to grow, but she does have great light. Her kitchen provides access to the morning and early afternoon sun, so she grows small Paphiopedilums in a corner nook and larger Paphiopedilums in a small den off the kitchen.

She has a three-tiered stand in her office upstairs where she also grows orchids, but less successfully due to afternoon sun and heat and an atmosphere which is less moist than the air in the kitchen.

Charlotte relies on natural light for her orchids, but has learned the benefits of a reverse-osmosis watering system. “The water in Bridgeville is terrible, so I had invested in an RO system just for drinking water. Then, while stopping by a roadside stand with my sister in Florida, we started a conversation with a couple of women from Michigan who told me that my orchids would love my RO water as well. They were right. I’ve noticed a significant difference in the quality of my plants and their blooms since switching to RO Water.”

Like many OSWP members, Charlotte gets her potting medium from Roberts Flower Supply in Ohio.



She also buys Michigan State University RO fertilizer from Roberts.

“I usually water once a week and add a small bit of fertilizer to the water. If the smaller Paphs feel light and dry, I will water them twice a week.”

Charlotte likes Paphiopedilums and Phragmipediums, and is drawn to orchids that are a different color from the ones currently in her collection. “I love the bright orange color of Phragmipedium besseae. I have one, and I would love to have more!”

“I remember purchasing a lovely Paph from Marlow Orchids. The color was unique, and I could see that other shoppers were interested in it too. I didn’t have my glasses on at the time, and I didn’t want to lose out on the orchid, so I gave the vendor my credit card and signed for it. It was only later when I went to water it that I discovered the tag that told me it had cost \$110. It lasted two years and died. Moral of the story, wear your glasses; orchids can be an expensive hobby!”

Patience is a virtue when it comes to growing orchids. “Instant gratification is OK, but an orchid needs time to acclimate itself to your environment. As long as it is alive, there is a chance it might bloom – as long as you are patient. When it does bloom, it’s a real thrill. You have a great sense of satisfaction.

Through the years, Charlotte has shared her enthusiasm for orchids with her five sisters and two brothers. She has been successful in converting all of her sisters and they always have a sisters day at the annual show. One is particularly good at growing Phalaenopsis and has 30 specimens thriving in her home. Ironically, the last sister to catch the fever was the one living in Florida, where orchids thrive in a natural environment. “She has such a great environment for growing orchids outside all year long, but she loses interest once her plants are not in bloom” Charlotte loves to garden, so orchids are a natural offshoot of a long-standing interest. “I remember reading an article about perennials, and the author said that when one of her perennials died, it just gave her an opportunity to try something new in its place. So, I’ve taken that same philosophy with my orchids.

“Not all of the orchids I’ve brought home have survived, but I enjoy their uniqueness and beauty, and the challenge of adding them to my collection. Don’t be afraid to try something new. The plants may die, but you don’t have to be defeated. Just try something else. Some orchids don’t do well in some environments, so focus on things that will work in your environment.

“Orchids have a mystique that sets them apart from other flowers. I love the anticipation of nurturing an orchid and watching it bloom; each so unique and beautiful.

Sept Speaker Q & A with Tim, Sheila and Dave.

We hope all of you are planning to join us for our September meeting. Instead of a formal speaker we thought we would come together to talk about our orchids and ask all of those questions that come with a new year. This will be a great opportunity to get to better know each other, see what our members are growing, learn more about our newest members, and learn a great deal about growing orchids. We have lots of pictures that have been sent in to Jim Yamber over the summer to go through in show and tell and we will have a panel with some of our more experienced members to answer questions (though of course anyone is free to jump in on a topic). So please keep sending in those pictures of your orchids to Jim Yamber and if you have questions ready please send them in advance if you can to me (springer.d7@gmail.com) so we can prep for even better answers. We will skip the mini class since it would be more of the same thing. So the meeting will start at 2:00pm See you all soon!

Dave Springer

Memories

Memories like the wind mills of your mind.

Spin-off Groups

As our society has grown, we have developed more interest and created spin off groups that covered specific topics relating to other parts of orchid hobby. One was “**Culture Study Group**” (which meet at members’ homes) studied the care, growing and propagation of orchids. How to properly pot orchids, what to do with a flask of orchids, how to create a new hybrid by pollinating these plants. The name tag of the new hybrid and how it is written to indicate the parents of this hybrid.

We also had an “**Awards Study Group**” which covered the aspics of the judging and awarding orchids at the shows and the Judging center in Washington D.C. and Philadelphia Pa. We were able to get (on loan) award slides from the American Orchid Society for presentation and study. These 35mm slides could be gotten through the mail to societies wishing to study the requirements needed to receive awards of orchid plants. How the flowers are evaluated with a point system. It also reinforced the need for registered AOS judges and a path to becoming an accredited AOS judge.

These groups became smaller in numbers and just stopped due to interest (or lack of) members passing away. Soooooo, we then developed the **Mini-Class** which meets before our regular meeting. And by having this Mini-Class we can meet at a common venue without needing to go to a members home.

These Mini-Classes have covered many aspects of the orchid world focusing on education of the hobby and

successful orchid growing.

by Jim Yamber

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OSWP MEETINGS WITH THE AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY AND EASTERN ORCHID CONGRESS

The American Orchid Society has held national Members Meetings every spring and fall. In 1981 the OSWP invited the AOS to hold a fall meeting in Pittsburgh, and plans were started for October 23-27, 1985. In those days the Eastern Orchid Congress, an organization of societies along the East Coast, held an annual meeting each fall, and when possible joined an AOS meeting, so we invited them to join us also. During this exciting event, held at what was then the Pittsburgh Hilton Hotel, downtown at the Point (now the Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh Downtown), there were meetings of the AOS committees and trustees and of the EOC Board, a very large show which included vendors from around the United States and other countries, two full days of lectures, a tour of Pittsburgh, a preview party, an auction and a banquet. The entertainment at the banquet was a first – a musical review by our own talented OSWP members called the Phalaenopsis Phollies, and it was a tremendous hit. The preparations for that extravaganza were long and arduous, as detailed in the last OSWP Newsletter. The entire meeting was acclaimed by many as the best ever and had the highest attendance to that date of 525. In the fall of 1999, the OSWP hosted the Eastern Orchid Congress again in what turned out to be its next to last meeting, before the group disbanded due to its inability to get societies to host future meetings. Unfortunately, because hotel costs had escalated since 1985, we were not able to obtain a hotel with the necessary space to also host the AOS at a reasonable price, and it

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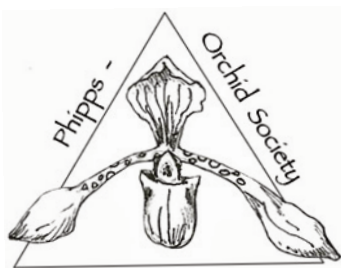
continued from page 5

was held at the Sheraton in

Wexford. It was similar in scope but without the AOS meetings and with fewer attendees, who were again wowed by the unique Phalaenopsis Phollies.

To my knowledge, no other society that has hosted a national meeting entertained the attendees with a clever musical show performed by its own talented members. I refer you back to last month's newsletter to read about it and see pictures. Luckily for us, the OSWP on several occasions has been treated to experiencing parts of the original. It was a very special and tremendous accomplishment, and all those listed in last month's article deserve our gratitude and congratulations, especially Demetria, who with her late husband, Bud, spearheaded the project with creativity and dedication.

Barbara Tisherman



P-OSI

A joint initiative between Phipps Conservatory and the Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania to create and cultivate an orchid collection of note for enjoyment, education and research.

September 2021

Phipps administration is back to their offices at the conservatory full time so far. While we are not yet permitted to resume our volunteer work helping with the Phipps orchid collection, Margie Radebaugh promises the orchids are being well taken care of by Gary Worthington.

We can still visit Phipps Conservatory's Summer Flower Show for a bit more. The orchid exhibition room is being renovated, but there are a few beautifully blooming orchids at the top of the Tropical Garden (Cuban exhibit greenhouse).

Hopefully, in the near future, we will be able to return as volunteers working to repot Phipps orchids, pFun at Phipps, plus our other cultural and inventory work with the Phipps orchid collection, P-OSI.

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412-367-1556

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Current Committees Chairs,

AOS	Nancy Kline
Culture Corner	Nancy Kline
Facebook	Lance Cheuvront
Garden Club/Library Liaison	Karen Gibson
Hospitality	Carolyn Bolton
Library	open
Membership	Kathy Collins
Mini-class	Tim Cholte
Newsletter	Jim Yamber

Orchid Gems	Norma Raiff, Pam Horter-Moore, Cristina Eyler
Pfun	Nancy Kline
P-OSI	Demetria Marsh
Raffle	Natalie Turicik
Show	Sheila Nathanson, Tammy Wurst, Norma Raiff and Janet Greenberg
Speaker	Kathleen Arria and David Springer
Website	Jinghua Ou

DUES RENEWAL GRACE PERIOD EXPIRES 09/30/21

If no change in information, no form need be submitted.



Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania

Membership Information
DUES: 07/01/21-06/30/22

The Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania (OSWP) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to serving orchid enthusiasts. Our purpose is to stimulate interest in the exchange of information about the culture, conservation, and exhibition of orchids. Membership is open to everyone, whether they grow orchids or just want to learn more. Visit us at www.oswp.org

OSWP Membership Application Form

Name _____

Name of spouse/other family member

Feb-June 2021
Free to New Members

Your Email _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone (____) _____

Date: _____

Annual Dues calculation: (check all that apply)

Individual Membership \$20

Household Membership \$25

Additional fee for paper newsletter: \$15

Total dues \$ _____ Check payable to OSWP

Or PayPal, using email address: OSWPtreasurer@gmail.com

PayPal-Please click on "Friends and Family" (no fee assessed OSWP)

Or PayPal, via OSWP.org, Dues link, (OSWP pays fee-Friends & Family discount not available)

Mail your completed form/check to:

Janet Greenberg, 150 Ammons Dr., McMurray, PA 15317

2021 SEPTEMBER AOS Corner – for Affiliated Societies

The AOS Corner is for society representatives and newsletter editors: Orchid societies are welcome to re-produce the AOS Corner completely, or in part, in their society publications.

We encourage use of the AOS website by all members. <http://www.aos.org>
<https://www.aos.org/about-us/affiliated-societies.aspx>

The image shows a promotional graphic for AOS membership. At the top, it features the AOS logo, the slogan "Let's Grow Together!", and the website URL "www.aos.org". Below this is a collection of colorful orchids. Two tables are presented, one for Silver memberships and one for Gold memberships, both with digital access to the magazine. The Silver table has 7 rows, and the Gold table has 6 rows. In both tables, the first option in each row is selected with a colored dot (green for Silver, blue for Gold).

Membership Type	With Digital Access Magazine
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Silver, One Year, US	\$54.00
<input type="radio"/> Silver, One Year, US Joint	\$69.00
<input type="radio"/> Silver, One Year, US Youth	\$39.00
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Silver, Two Year, US	\$103.00
<input type="radio"/> Silver, Two Year, US Joint	\$133.00
<input type="radio"/> Silver, Two Year, US Youth	\$73.00

Membership Type	With Digital & Print Magazine
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Gold, One Year, US	\$79.00
<input type="radio"/> Gold, One Year, US Joint	\$94.00
<input type="radio"/> Gold, One Year, US Youth	\$54.00
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Gold, Two Year, US	\$153.00
<input type="radio"/> Gold, Two Year, US Joint	\$183.00
<input type="radio"/> Gold, Two Year, US Youth	\$103.00

Can't say it often enough, but this month we are going to ask that our affiliates promote membership in the American Orchid Society to their individual members. There are always good reasons to become a member of the AOS. Some of them are highlighted in this newsletter frequently.

I want to draw your attention to why your society members should be excited about becoming an AOS member right now.

<https://aos.wistia.com/medias/we4i8onm3c>

Although The Orchid Marketplace™ is a curated collection of the world's top orchid, and related product vendors that offer a minimum 5% discount to ALL active AOS members, it is accessible to all orchid fanciers whether or not they are members. You will want to encourage everyone to browse this program often to look for Orchids, Jewelry, Books, Potting Media and more!

When members sign up for a two-year AOS membership they get \$30 off a minimum \$100 purchase from each Elite Partner (terms and conditions may apply). Urge your society members to become AOS members now to take advantage of this new member benefit.

This new, improved program will replace the Orchid Source Directory. It is designed to be mobile friendly, and fully searchable by keyword/genus, location, or featured products. <https://marketplace.aos.org/>

.....**AFFILIATED SOCIETY BENEFIT BONUS**.....

There is sure to be an AOS membership level to fit the needs of each society member.
Membership in the AOS is a win-win for your society, and for the American Orchid Society.
The Affiliated Societies Committee exists because you exist.

.....**EARN AOS MEMBERSHIP EXTENSIONS FOR YOUR SOCIETY**.....

Affiliated Societies can earn a one-month extension on their AOS society membership for each new individual AOS member they recruit. If you start now, with twelve new AOS members, your Affiliated Society can obtain a FULL FREE YEAR OF AOS membership! Be sure and advise new members to note their society affiliation in the comments section online at checkout or on the printed membership form.

<https://www.aos.org/AOS/media/Content-Images/PDFs/AOSJoinForm2020.pdf>

AOS Representatives, please remember to let your society members know that we want to sweeten the deal and give them every possible reason to join AOS today! Once they become an American Orchid Society member, they have considerably more resources available to help make orchid growing enjoyable and successful. Though it is a highlight, there is more to membership than a magazine subscription. <https://secure.aos.org/join/new-membership>

Individual society membership and AOS Membership are not the same. Although affiliated, each requires separate membership dues and benefits may vary.

DID YOU KNOW? The AOS website calendar is getting populated with orchids shows and events once again. Here are a couple of important reminders to get your show judging underway. A show application must be processed and paid for before it is added to the AOS website.

Get your **SHOW APPLICATION** here: Log on to aos.org and LOOK for About Us Tab. Click the drop-down menu. FIND and select Affiliated Societies. Go To **FORMS** in the left column. Select Request AOS Judging for a Show. It is a fillable format PDF.

<https://www.aos.org/AOS/media/Content-Images/PDFs/ShowApp-Effective0418.pdf>.

If paying by check, send your check to the PO Box on the application form.

Your application must be signed by your judging center chair.

You may pay for your event online through the website store. You can find the payment page for show judging under the Orchid Awards and Judging Drop down menu. If paying through the website, please remember to sign on with your society account information so it is credited properly. Enter your order number on the application before it is submitted to your judging center chair. <https://secure.aos.org/categories/65>

AFFILIATED SOCIETY RESPONSIBILITIES From - The Handbook on Judging

3.9 Judging Centers and Affiliated Societies

- 1) Affiliated Societies in the area served by a judging center must provide financial and administrative support for operation of the center.
- 2) AOS approval of judging at shows, events, or as outreach (both domestic and international) must be obtained from the society's center.
- 3) Affiliated Societies may change the center serving them by proposing a transfer to and being approved by the chair of the new center, and notification of the former center. If the new center's chair disapproves, the decision may be appealed to the JC.
- 4) New societies requesting affiliation with the AOS will indicate the judging center they intend to support and be served by in their application for affiliation.

Find more information about orchid judging here: <https://www.aos.org/orchid-awards-judging/judging-handbook.aspx>



AMERICAN ORCHID SOCIETY
PO Box 565477
Miami, FL 33256-5477
Phone: (305) 740-2020
Fax: (305) 747-7154

Log on to aos.org

SHOW APPLICATION
LOOK for About Us Tab
Click the drop down menu
FIND and select Affiliated Societies
Go To FORMS in the left column
Select Request AOS Judging for a Show
It is a fill in format PDF

PAY SHOW FEES ONLINE
LOOK for Orchid Awards and Judging Tab
Click the drop down menu
FIND and Select Pay Show Fees

Affiliated Societies can pay for their Show Fee and Show Trophy online.

Application for AOS-Sanctioned Show/Event
Current AOS Membership for Society and AOS Rep are required for AOS Show Approval

Sponsoring Affiliated Society _____
Society AOS Member No. _____ Exp Date _____

Society's AOS Representative _____
Rep AOS Member No. _____ Exp Date _____
Email _____ Phone _____

Name of Show _____
Show Location/Venue _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Country _____
Show Dates _____ Date of AOS Judging _____
Show Times _____ Judging Time _____

Show/Event Chair _____
Email _____ Phone _____

Judging Center responsible for AOS Judging: You must select a Judging Center
AOS Show Judging Chair (for your show) _____

Names of at least four (4) other Certified Judges who have consented to serve, of which three (3) are accredited
Certified Judge Name _____ Certified Judge Name _____
Certified Judge Name _____ Certified Judge Name _____

Name of photographer who has consented to serve: _____
Email _____ Phone _____

Note: Cost of award photography is the responsibility of the host society, not the exhibitor

Applicant Name _____ Date _____
Judging Center Chair Approval _____

Are you requesting an AOS Show Trophy? Yes No

Note: Please note that AOS Show Trophies will be delivered in person by Judging Center on the scheduled day of judging

AOS SHOW FEES
Due at least two (2) months prior to the show

Judging/Processing Fees (waived for outreach judging)	\$60.00
AOS Show Trophy (if requested)	\$70.00

I have paid online under Order No. _____

I enclose my check or money order made payable (US Funds) through a US Bank to: American Orchid Society

Charge my credit card: MasterCard Visa American Express Discover

Cardholder Name (Please Print) _____
Card Number _____ Exp Date _____ CVV Code _____
Cardholder Signature _____ Total \$ _____



Show Fee

Regular Price \$60.00

Show Fee Payment: Please use this product to pay for the Show Fee of an upcoming AOS-sanctioned show.

[DETAILS](#) [ADD TO CART](#)



Show Trophy Payment

Regular Price \$70.00

Show Trophy Payment: Please use this product to pay for the Show Trophy in conjunction with your Show Fee payment. The show trophy will be provided by the regions Judging Center.

[DETAILS](#) [ADD TO CART](#)

ORCHIDS CONTENTS

September 2011 Volume 80 Number 9

Reprint: TOM'S MONTHLY CHECKLIST - SEPTEMBER: BACK TO REALITY By: Thomas Mirenda

Summer Vacation Inspires for an Active Autumn Growing Season

It has been a most interesting summer here at the Smithsonian Institution, with many international visitors, new collaborations, recently issued institutional mandates (such as the Challenge to Understand and Sustain a Biodiverse Planet; see <https://ssec.si.edu/biodiversity>), and the enthusiasm and energy of summer interns, as well as a little time for vacation or work-related travel. I was fortunate to attend a cutting-edge botanical conference in August in Australia and subsequently venture into the spring wildflower displays just beginning in the west of that vastly different continent. While we are all familiar with the unique Australian fauna, I found the plants to be equally foreign and, for me, new. It reminded me how many things I do not know and have not yet learned despite my age, experience, and wrinkles. It was also a humbling experience being in the company of some of the world's brilliant botanists, all friendly and engaging. But my insecurities about the cavernous gaps in my knowledge made me feel a wee bit ignorant, inadequate, and intimidated. Have you been there? I must say that it was also an honor.

I like to think that such experiences give us personal growth and make us better at our jobs because they add to the experiences we can share. I plan on sharing some of what I learned with all of you. September has arrived and for many of us, students, and professionals alike, it is time to buckle down and resume business as usual, attack some of our new challenges and use some of the things we have learned over the summer. Similarly, with the cooler weather coming, many orchids, stifled by the high summer heat, are making another burst of growth as more temperate, nurturing conditions prevail.

THEY GROW ON YOU Because most of the orchids we cultivate descended from epiphytic species from tropical forests, early autumn temperatures — naturally cooler, especially at night — more greatly mimic those of the natural environment of many orchids. This month presents an opportunity to gain a bit more growth due to the optimal conditions available. Use of a balanced fertilizer (equal parts N-P-K or nitrogen-phosphorus-potassium) in half- or quarter-strength early this month will help your plants achieve mature pseudobulbs. Strong pseudobulbs, canes and other growths are the key to generating strong, sturdy, multifloral inflorescences.

TAPERING OFF Keep careful watch of your plants this month. Even though they are still growing, with the gradual shortening of day lengths, some photoperiod-dependent plants are starting to slow down, and spikes may start to appear on several popular groups, among them catasetums, phalaenopsis, labiata-type cattleyas and standard, hard cane-type dendrobiums. When these signs come into view, plant growth has often suspended, and reduced watering will be necessary. Pick up such plants and check their weight to be sure they are not getting waterlogged at this critical time.

SMOOTH TRANSITIONS This is not to say that you must suddenly change your care regimen. Just as you gradually acclimated plants to summer heat, or new conditions when you moved them outdoors, reducing your watering in autumn should be done gradually over several weeks. If your orchids have spent the summer outside, and you live in a harsh winter area, it is certainly time to prepare the interior growing space. Before plants are brought back in, make sure all surfaces have been cleaned and sterilized, and that all heaters and circulating fans are functional. It is much better to find out the heater does not work properly now than on a frosty night in mid-October when it may be too late.

HITCHIN’ A RIDE Do not bring fauna inside with your flora. September is your last chance to eradicate any pests that may be harboring in among your plants. Even if you do not see any obvious signs of parasites, sometimes a cautionary spraying or insecticidal drench may be in order. Neem oil is often a good choice to spray this time of year because it is mild and will suffocate most living pests as well as render them unable to reproduce. Best to use any oil products, however on a cool or cloudy day to avoid burning foliage.

— Tom Miranda has been working professionally with orchids for over three decades and is the past chair of the AOS Conservation Committee. He is an AOS accredited judge in the Hawaii Center (email: biophiliak@gmail.com)

ORCHIDS Magazine (aos.org) <https://www.aos.org/about-us/orchids-magazine.aspx>

Webinars-Coming Attractions!






When	September 02, 2021 8:30pm EDT Thursday	September 16, 2021 8:30pm EDT Thursday	October 05, 2021 8:30pm EDT Tuesday	October 21, 2021 8:30pm EDT Thursday
Topic	Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&A) Send in your Questions!	Sarcochilus Australian Miniatues	Greenhouse Chat (Orchid Q&A) Send in your Questions!	Black Orchids The Lure, The Lust and Licentiousness
Presenter	Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer	Jean Allen-Benson JC National Education Coordinator, AOS Editorial Board Chair	Ron McHatton Chief Education and Science Officer	Dr. Leslie Dr, ND Associate Judge, President of OOC

REGISTRATION REQUIRED: <http://www.aos.org/orchids/webinars.aspx>

Cannot make it on the scheduled date or time? No need to worry. Register anyhow!

Webinar announcements are posted to Facebook,

Instagram and in the AOS Corner of your Affiliated Society’s newsletter.

We record the webinars, and they are available to view at your leisure.

GREENHOUSE CHAT Webinars are indexed by topic for future viewing.

Send your Greenhouse Chat questions and photos to: greenhousechat@aos.org

Do you have an idea for a webinar? Is there a group of orchids you would like to learn more about? Maybe you have knowledge that you would like to share with other orchid growers. The Education Committee is always looking for webinar content and presenters. Please contact Cheryl Erins with your webinar suggestion and ideas, or to find out how you can present a webinar. cerins10812@comcast.net



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The Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania Inc. is a non-profit corporation organized to advance the propagation, horticulture and preservation of orchid species and hybrids through research, education and scientific endeavors

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Upcoming 2021 speaker

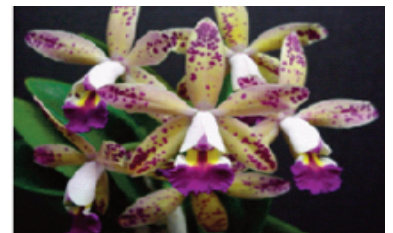
FUTURE PROGRAMS

September 19 , 2021

Q & A

with senior members
to answer all of your orchid related questions

More to come for the future programs for 2021



WANTED

The American Orchid Society Judging Program is seeking highly motivated orchid enthusiasts to join the judging ranks.

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For more information contact Dave Miller at: 330-307-7189 or demjpsmil@aol